

- the agency, after reasonable efforts, cannot discover the whereabouts of a parent;
- the child is a ward of the state under laws of the State.
- **Unaccompanied homeless youth**
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Duties of the Lead Agency and Other Public Agencies

The lead agency, or other public agency will assign an individual to act as a surrogate for the parent. This includes :

- determining whether a child needs a surrogate parent; and
- assigning a surrogate parent **no more than 30 days after determination of need** to the child.

Criteria for Selecting a Surrogate

The service coordinator may contact the local educational cooperative, which maintains a list of surrogates or independently locate and select a surrogate parent from the community in which the child resides. In selecting a surrogate parent the agency shall ensure that the person selected:

- has no interest that conflicts with the interests of the child;
- has the knowledge and skills to represent the child;
- has received training in the duties and knowledge required to be a surrogate.

Non-employee Requirement: Compensation

A person assigned as a surrogate parent may not be an employee of any agency involved in the provision of early intervention or services to the child.

A person who qualifies to be a surrogate parent under the above guidelines is not considered an employee of the public agency simply because he or she may be paid by that agency to serve as a surrogate parent. (Ex. Foster parents may act as a surrogate if properly trained)

Responsibilities

A surrogate parent may represent the child in all matters related to:

- the evaluation and assessment of the child;
- the development and implementation of the child's IFSP, including annual evaluations and periodic reviews;

